

Service Date: April 18, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Application of) REGULATORY DIVISION
NorthWestern Energy for Hydro Assets)
Purchase) DOCKET NO. D2013.12.85

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) is conducting public meetings in the Matter of the Application of NorthWestern Energy for Hydro Assets Purchase. Additional meetings will be noticed and take place in the following weeks across Montana.

The public meeting in Great Falls will commence on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Great Falls College MSU, Heritage Hall, 2100 16th Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana.

The public meeting in Helena will commence on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Commission's Business Offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana.

On September 26, 2013, NorthWestern Corporation doing business as NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) executed a Purchase and Sale Agreement with PPL Montana, LLC to purchase its hydroelectric generating facilities in Montana. On December 20, 2013, NorthWestern filed its *Application for Hydro Assets Purchase* (Application). In its Application, NorthWestern requests preapproval to purchase the Hebgen Lake storage reservoir and the following hydroelectric generating facilities:

- Madison Dam
- Hauser Dam
- Holter Dam
- Black Eagle Dam
- Rainbow Dam
- Cochrane Dam
- Thompson Falls Dam
- Mystic Dam
- Kerr Dam
- Morony Dam
- Ryan Dam

In the Application, NorthWestern states that it has agreed to pay \$900 million plus or minus closing adjustments for the hydroelectric facilities. The 2014 test period revenue requirement is \$128,402,190. This consists of costs of \$66,570,901 and a return of \$61,831,289.

The Commission's technical hearing in the case is tentatively scheduled to begin on July 8th, 2014 in Helena.

The meetings are for the purpose of receiving public comment for consideration by the Commission. The Montana Consumer Counsel and NorthWestern may be in attendance to present a short informational presentation and answer questions from the audience. Anyone needing an accommodation for a physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend or participate in the meeting should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6199 at least one week prior to the meeting. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate individual impairments.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Chairman

BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman

KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner

ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner